JP, HR, JW, PH

1/11/72

Dear Cyril,

Parts of the part of your last night's Long John Show were superb. Part I could not hear because of fading and part because the reporter friend of mine who had earlier interviewed you then phoned me about his interview. You will find his 15-inch story, which also went to perhaps 200 other newspapers, I am sure to your liking. I backgrounded him a week ago, before Graham called you. Graham called you at my suggestion. I gave him your background and phones.

What has happened is but one of the two more likely possibilities I long ago anticipated and began talking and writing about back in I guess September. It is a "one" punch and I think not too serious, not as serious as we first may have thought. We not including me because first I expected it then I knew about it in advance. My other knowledge includes something I may or may not have interfered with. I have without doubt, I think, laid a safer basis for doing something with certain legal moves where, unfortunately, I am alone. However, I phone check indicates I have probably accomplished the necessary to take this into court in a way you have no way of knowing and I have no way of going into now because I have had to do too much and I have been abusing my almost-lost thumb. I have, in fact, two immediate legal remedies. They made a very serious mistake to let Lattimer have the clothing. This, I think, consistuttes fraud in my civil action and I think perjury by Rhoads. I have, in any event, already charged that to the judge in that case, copies to Rhoads, Marshall and Kennedy.

This is a very ticklish situation, and what could easily be much worse, the catastrophe, still impends. I am reluctant to press my views on others, something I learned early from our almost-all strong-minded brethren. And they resent it. More when I am right. This makes a special problem because we are all independent. First of all, I encourage you not to press for immediate access. What I know of what you can see is already recorded and you will be able to learn whether I am right in telling you that there is little you can learn from tem that I don't know and I do know what you can't. Things change, and it is difficult for those really out of it to keep up. Especially those who, like you, have been unable to do some of the more basic work with the available evidence. (This reminds me, before you have your confrontation with Lattimer, which I think he will avoid, Sylvia or I should background you on his lies, stupidity, ignorance and incredible errors, for you also made some.)

In the next thing that I know was planned comes off, that will be one thing, and it will make the legal position entirely unassailable and do more to unravel this than anything you can by seeing this film and you would in any event thereafter have to be shown it, I would anticipate under better circumstances, where you would be called upon to be a witness in court, where we would not have the same worries I think you have not really understood and the best possible forum with maximum chance for solid attention. If it does not come off, then I'll have to do more thinking and can only hope that I can then make a proper evaluation. Perfection is not a state of man.

Graham promised me that he would ask you to call me. I felt that we had to check base on him and there were things I wanted to tell you. As you know, I can't call you and you didn't return my last calls. Hence the brief note the other day.

You will note that I have sought no interviews in answer to Lattimer. Instead I asked for equal radio and TV time, knowing I would be rejected. I have already filed appeals with the net and the FCC. Can you see that this is a different context and the hearing there and perhaps thereafter in court a different context and a different forum?

Unless the bastards had limited objectives, this thing has already backfired in part. They have gotten relatively minor attention, major attention in the Times only and resentment because they arranged an exclusive leak to Graham. This is at least the second time they have done this with him and the Times. Some editions of the Washington Post, for example, carried nothing. Then they used a short Reuters story. No more. No followup. No independent story. They wouldn't even authorize a reporter to get filled in. I don't reall think this is what the bums expected unless they had in mind what is not immediately obvious.

They made a very serious mistake in selecting Lattimer for their exclusive. I think our first priority should be to complete the exploitation of this and that to the degree possible everything else should be delayed until that is resolved. There is a legal basis for it because the clohting, despite the contract, is in official evidence and therefore under regular laws. Bud is on the west coast so I can't consult with him. Jim is inclined to agree. He was to have come here today but his car is in such shape he didn't dare. Now it looks like I'll have to go to Washington Monday, and I can see him and Bud then. Jim is inclined to agree with me on the law and legal moves. We discussed it ny phone today. You are a lawyer, and I ask you to consider whether some legal moves should not be taken, such as to deny any further access temporarily, perhaps with an injunction, and then raise other points of law. We must get this in a safe context or we are ruined, or at least can be, and I think the risk is one we dare not chance. PLEASE try and do your own independent thinking on this, without my priming you, and try also to consider the position in which I am, for I have to live with that.

I also can, I think, move for an injunction, but I will do nothing like this without consultation with at least Bud and what might mean more to me, his partner Bill, who does more of the real law work. And I think we are not limited to 5 U.S.C.552.

I have written Graham, who has not had time to respond. He was to have called me back as soon as his story was out. I think my letter will make him think much. I know what else he expects, but I can't breach confidence.

Meanhile, I would like every word Lattimer says. If you get copies, not matter how seemingly valueless they may appearm please let me have them promptly. It is always a more productuve approach on this subject to destroy them, and he is most vulnerable, meaning they are through him. There should be much we can do with this if it goes no farthur once we get in a position to. I think this just may have the possibility with Congress, for it is pretty raw. But we must have all of the rundown of Lattimer first. I think he laso has right-wing military connections, and I would encourage you not to discount the possible significance of this. You have not seen my completed book. I will now add a chapter on this.

For your information, Lattimer is quite wrong in saying the pictures show the rear torso wound as higher or the pictures are fakes. I have this absolutely beyond any questioning from official but non-Warren Commission sources. Believe me. The fact is that there is absolutely nothing on which he is right. This we really should exploit, regardless of wheether we can and do agree on what does or does not follow. Above all, do not trust Marshall. He gave a Senator who is a mutual friend of his and mine his word that this would not happen. Congress will be in session in a week. I have written this Senator, to whom I had spoken to protect you and us. He may be affaid, but we should find out, I think before we do much of anything. Except THINK. I hope you can find time for that. If you are interested in what Lattimer says, aside from what I think won't happen, the 2/11 Nebel show, let me know and I'll try to dub everything for you. A young friend is transcribing the Nebel show and that will soon be available. You can learn about Oswald's marksmanship from WHITEWASH and very likely from Sylvia's work. But I think the ruin of Lattimer should be one of the very first thinks, separate from others and so that others cannot overshadow it. Thus my thinking of using the law in a real switch that in itself could attract attention. Please think of this, too, if you have any public-relations or political experience. Best regards, Harold Weisberg